

**Hobart, Jamie**

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**From:** Donnette D. <ettedms@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 6:27 PM  
**To:** pstestimony; pstestimony  
**Subject:** HB 5408 open carry law

To members of the Public Safety and Security Committee of the CT Legislature:

I am writing to voice my support for HB 5408, which requires people who carry handguns in public to have their permits on their person at all times and to show those permits when requested by police.

Without enactment of this law, the permit itself becomes almost useless, as anyone not possessing one will know they are able to carry a loaded weapon whatever their intention with no fear of being questioned by police. And, if they do have ill intent, they will further know that the police can do nothing to stop them until they have begun to carry out their crime.

As it is, open carry laws require citizens like me to make snap decisions when seeing someone in possession of a gun. Is he a good guy or a bad guy? If good, is his weapon properly secured or will it go off simply because he bent down to tie his shoes? The gun carrier is so afraid of an unarmed stranger like me that he feels the need to carry a lethal weapon. Yet I am supposed to have no fear at all of him, equally a stranger but with the ability to harm me, even at a distance, in the blink of an eye.

The approval of this bill is critical in honoring the public's right to shop, live, and go about their business in a climate of relative safety and security. The right to carry a lethal weapon should carry with it a high level of responsibility. Please vote on the side of safety and enact this bill.

Sincerely,  
Donnette Dolzall  
Newtown, CT